

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 06820 011329Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----130421 011330Z /40

O 011246Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 660
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6820

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, CG, GW
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU ON REFORM: THE GERMANS FINALLY AMKE IT

REF A) KINSHASA 6429; B) BONN 11161

1. AFTER WAITING TEN DAYS FOR AN APPOINTMENT, GERMAN CHARGE
FINALLY MADE DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU ON REFORM JUNE 29. ACCORDING TO
CHARGE, MEETING WAS RELATIVELY BRIEF, WITH AN UNSMILING MOBUTU
MAKING CLEAR HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN HEARING AGAIN THE POINTS ALREADY

MADE BY FRENCH, US, BRITISH AND BELGIAN CHIEFS OF MISSION. GERMAN
CHARGE THEREFORE LIMITED HIS PRESENTATION TO A QUICK REVIEW
OF POINT SEVEN OF BRUSSELS CONFERENCE CONSLUSIONS AND HANDED OVER
COPY OF JOINTLY-AGREED MEMORANDUM. HE DID NOT RAISE ANY OF THE
SPECIFIC ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL REFORMS CONTAINED IN THE ANNEXES DRAWN
UP AT PARIS JUNE 5.

2. MOBUTU CAME TO LIFE TOWARD END OF MEETING WHEN CHARGE INFORMED
HIM OF FRG'S DECISION TO PROVIDE ZAIRE ON GRANT BASIS MILITARY
EQUIPMENT VALUED AT DM SIX MILLION. ACCORDING TO CHARGE, EQUIP-
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MENT WILL INCLUDE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TO BE INSTALLED
ALONG ZAIRIAN-ANGOLAN BORDER AS WELL AS OTHER NON-LETHAL ITEMS
NOT YET DETERMINED.

3. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REF A, GERMANS WERE NOT GIVEN APPOINT-
MENT WITH MOBUTU WHEN OTHER REPS OF PARIS FIVE MADE THEIR DEMARCHES
JUNE 19-20. WHILE REASONS STILL NOT CLEAR, GERMANS LESSER DIPLO-

MATIC STATUS AND MOBUTU'S IRRITATION OVER REPORTS ON DEMARCHES BY GERMAN MEDIA COULD BOTH HAVE BEEN FACTORS. CHARGE ATTRIBUTES BREAK-THROUGH TO FACT THAT FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY, ANNOYED AT LONG DELAY, CALLED IN ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR JUNE 28 TO REQUEST EXPLANATION. IT IS EVIDENT THAT, LIKE OTHER DEMARCHES EXCEPT FOR THAT BY US, GERMANS' PITCH WAS RELATIVELY LOW-KEY. WHATEVER SOBERING EFFECT IT HAD ON MOBUTU MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY WELL COMPENSATED BY HIS LEARNING AT THE SAME TIME THAT DM SIX MILLION WOTH OF FREE MATERIEL WILL SHORTLY BE PUT IN THE PIPELINE. GERMAN CHARGE HAS CLEARLY LABELED THIS AS MILITARY ASSISTANCE, WHICH SEEMS TO CONTRAST WITH FRG EFFORTS REPORTED REF B TO PLACE THIS AID IN NON-MILITARY CONTEXT.

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